

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for removal and disposal of materials comprising:

a wheel assembly having ~~a rim and~~ an axle ~~connected together with spokes radially projecting from the axle~~, the axle including a fulcrum member capable of transmitting a recoil reaction to an action applied at the axle;

a driving member having an upper portion, a middle portion, and a lower portion, wherein the middle portion is attached to the fulcrum member of the axle;

a handle attached to the upper portion of the driving member for ~~and capable of~~ moving the wheel assembly; and

a blade attached to the lower portion of the driving member, the blade adapted to pick up a load of material from a surface when the blade is lowered to the surface by raising the handle and pushing the handle forward;

wherein the blade springs generally upwards and forwards, thereby releasing the load of material briskly away from the apparatus when the handle is pushed generally downwards to cause the wheel

assembly to compress and recoil through the fulcrum member at the axle of the wheel assembly.

2. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the axle comprises a tubular body having first and second ends which support spokes connecting the axle to a ~~the~~ rim of the wheel assembly, the tubular body forming the fulcrum member.

3. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the wheel assembly has a quick release for disconnecting the wheel assembly from the driving member;

4. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the wheel assembly includes a rim ~~of the wheel assembly is~~ adapted to receive an elastic member, including a bicycle tire.

5. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 1~~4~~, wherein the middle portion of the driving member is generally S-shaped.

6. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the blade has two sidewalls and a back wall to keep the load of material from spilling out from the blade.

7. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the blade is shaped in the form of a scoop having a radius at the bottom.

8. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the driving member comprises a tubular material.

9. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 8, wherein the tubular material comprises metal.

10. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 8, wherein the tubular material comprises plastic.

11. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the handle is slidably adjustable through a telescoping tubular material inside a hollow tubular driving member.

12. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the overall length of the apparatus is between about 78 inches to about 88 inches, and wherein the apparatus is configured such that its overall length can be increased to between about 89 inches to about 100 inches.

13. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the wheel assembly includes a wheel having a ~~[[the]]~~ diameter ~~of the wheel~~ is between about 30 inches to about 36 inches.

14. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the height of the handle from a datum plane directly under the wheel assembly is between about 48 inches to about 60 inches, and wherein the apparatus is configured such that the height of the handle from the datum plane can be adjusted increased to between about 42 inches to about 66 inches.

15. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the load of material comprises sand and gravel.

16. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the load of material comprises snow and slush.

17. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for removal and disposal of materials comprising:

a wheel assembly having ~~a rim and an~~ axle, the axle ~~further~~ comprising a tubular body having two ends ~~adapted to receive spokes which connect the axle to the rim;~~

the axle ~~further~~ adapted to receive a plurality of springs at the two respective ends of the axle to act as a fulcrum and transmit a recoil reaction to an action applied at the axle;

an elongate ~~U-shaped~~ driving member having a curved upper portion, a generally straight middle portion, and an open lower portion, wherein the middle portion is attached to the springs at each end of the axle;

a handle formed from the upper portion of the driving member for moving, ~~the handle capable of moving~~ the wheel assembly; and

a shovel blade attached to the lower portion of the driving member, the shovel blade adapted to pick up material from a surface when the shovel blade is lowered to the surface by raising the handle and pushing the handle forward;

wherein the shovel blade springs generally upwards and forwards, thereby releasing the material briskly away from the apparatus when the handle is pushed downwards to cause the springs to compress and recoil through the fulcrum member at the axle of the wheel assembly.

18. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 17, wherein the ends of the axle's ~~comprises a~~ tubular body ~~having first and second ends~~ ~~which~~ support spokes connecting the axle to ~~a~~ ~~[[the]]~~ rim of the wheel assembly, the tubular body forming the fulcrum member.

19. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 17, wherein the plurality of springs comprise a pair of springs, one spring at each end of the two ends of the axle.

20. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim **19** ~~[[17]]~~, wherein the pair of springs is compressed when the handle is pushed downwards, the compression of the springs providing the recoil action.

21. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 17, wherein the **shovel** blade has two sidewalls and a back wall to keep the load of material from spilling out from the **shovel** blade.

22. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 17, wherein the **shovel** blade is shaped in the form of a scoop having a radius at the bottom.

23. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 17, wherein the driving member comprises a tubular material.

24. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 23, wherein the tubular material comprises metal.

25. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 17, wherein the handle is slidably adjustable through a telescoping tubular material inside a hollow tubular driving member.

26. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 17, wherein the overall length of the apparatus is between about 78 **inches** to **about** 88 inches, and **wherein the apparatus is configured such that its overall length** can be increased to between about 89 **inches** to **about** 100 inches.~~[[.]]~~

27. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 17, wherein **the wheel assembly includes a wheel having a** ~~[[the]]~~ diameter ~~of the wheel~~ **is** between about 30 **inches** to **about** 36 inches.

28. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 17, wherein the height of the handle from a datum plane directly under the wheel **assembly** is between about 48 **inches** to **about** 60 inches, and **wherein the apparatus is configured such that the height of the handle from the datum plane** can be **adjusted** ~~increased~~ to between about 42 **inches** to **about** 66 inches. ~~[[.]]~~

29. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 17, wherein the ~~load of~~ material comprises sand and gravel.

30. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 17, wherein the ~~load of~~ material comprises snow and slush.

31. (Currently Amended) A method of snow removal, ~~comprising the steps of: providing with~~ an apparatus comprising a relatively large wheel **having a portion** substantially at the waist level of an operator, a **U-shaped** yoke having a handle at **a first** ~~the closed~~ end **portion of the yoke**, a shovel blade at **a second** ~~[[the open]]~~ **end portion** of the yoke, wherein the yoke is mounted onto an axle of the wheel, **the method comprising:**

moving the apparatus along a path by pushing the handle and rolling the wheel in a direction commanded by the handle;

shoving onto the **shovel** blade a load of material lying along the path of the apparatus;

pressing the handle downwards, after picking up the load of material, to lift the shovel blade to a level that clears the path;

adjusting further the level of the shovel blade to achieve a balanced load with respect to and over the axle of the wheel;

transporting the balanced load of material to a destination; and

at the destination~~[[;]]~~, briskly applying body weight at the handle to propel the load of material to a substantial distance away from the apparatus.

32. (Currently Amended) The method ~~apparatus~~ according to claim 31, wherein the diameter of the wheel is between about 30 inches to about 36 inches.

33. (Currently Amended) The method ~~apparatus~~ according to claim 31, further comprising increasing wherein the overall length of the apparatus ~~[[is]]~~ from between about 78 inches to about 88 inches ~~and can be increased~~ to between about 89 inches to about 100 inches.

34. (Currently Amended) The method ~~apparatus~~ according to claim 31, further comprising adjusting wherein the height of the handle from a datum plane directly under the wheel from ~~[[is]]~~ between about 48 inches to about 60 inches, ~~and can be increased~~ to between about 42 inches to about 66 inches.

35. (Currently Amended) The method ~~apparatus~~ according to claim 31, wherein the load of material comprises sand and gravel.

36. (Currently Amended) The method ~~apparatus~~ according to claim 31, wherein the load of material comprises snow and slush.

37. (Currently Amended) The method ~~apparatus~~ according to claim 31, wherein the axle is adapted to receive a plurality of springs at the two respective ends of the axle to act as a fulcrum and transmit a recoil reaction to an action applied at the axle.

38. (Currently Amended) The method ~~apparatus~~ according to claim 31, wherein the wheel is adapted to receive an elastic material capable of producing a recoil action to an action applied at the axle.

39. (Currently Amended) The method ~~apparatus~~ according to claim 31, wherein the body weight is applied at the waist level of the operator.

40. (Currently Amended) The method ~~apparatus~~ according to claim 31, wherein the load is propelled to the side of the shovel blade.

41. (Currently Amended) The method ~~apparatus~~ according to claim 31, wherein the load is propelled in a straight-out departure path from the shovel blade.

42. (New) A wheeled shovel comprising a wheel assembly having a wheel and an axle configured for transmitting a recoil reaction in response to an action applied at the axle, the wheel having an outer diameter of between about 30 inches to about 36 inches such that a portion of the wheel assembly is substantially at a user's waist level, a driving member having an upper portion, a middle portion, and a lower portion, the middle portion being coupled to the axle, a handle attached to the upper portion of the driving member for moving the wheel assembly, and a shovel blade attached to the lower portion of the driving member for picking up a load of material, whereby the shovel blade propels the

load of material away from the shovel blade when the handle is pushed generally downwards to cause the wheel assembly to compress and recoil through the axle.

43. (New) The wheeled shovel according to claim 42, wherein the middle portion has a generally "S-shape" defined by a lower portion included angle Φ between about eighty degrees and about ninety degrees, and an upper portion included angle Φ' between about eighty degrees and about ninety degrees.

44. (New) The wheeled shovel according to claim 42, wherein the wheel assembly includes a rim and a plurality of spokes radially projecting from the axle connecting the axle to the rim.

45. (New) The wheeled shovel according to claim 42, wherein the ratio of the length of the driving member to the height of the handle is greater than 1:1.

46. (New) The wheeled shovel according to claim 42, wherein the axle comprises a tubular body having two ends with at least one spring at each said end of the tubular body, whereby the springs are compressed when the handle is pushed generally downwards such that the compression of the springs provides a recoil action.

47. (New) The wheeled shovel according to claim 46, wherein the middle portion of the driving member is attached to the springs.

48. (New) The wheeled shovel according to claim 42, wherein the middle portion of the driving member is generally "S-shaped" and includes an upper elbow and a lower elbow, and wherein the driving member is coupled to

the axle and configured such that upon movement of the driving member about the axle, the upper elbow moves a distance H that is greater than the distance A moved by the lower elbow.